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منظمة العفو الدولية
國際特赦組織

TL 4295

URGENT ACTION

EXTERNAL **AI Index: ASA 21/91/97**

UA 411/97 Possible "disappearance"/ fear of torture **30 December 1997**

INDONESIA/EAST TIMOR **Lucas da Costa, University Professor**

There are serious concerns for the safety of Lucas da Costa, an East Timorese academic who has not been seen since leaving his home to go to work at Airlangga University in Surabaya, Central Java, on 23 December 1997. There are fears he may have been abducted by the Indonesian security forces.

The family of Lucas da Costa have made inquiries to the military and the police but have been unable to gather any information concerning his whereabouts. It is feared that he may have been arrested because of his support for East Timorese independence.

Lucas da Costa's abduction follows the arrest of six other East Timorese in Surabaya on 21 December. The six are reported to have been taken from their homes in Surabaya by ten people wearing masks. They were taken away in jeeps, blindfolded, and driven around for several hours during which time it has been reported they were beaten and threatened. They were eventually released in the early hours of the next morning.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Arbitrary arrests of individuals opposed to the Indonesian occupation of East Timor, including those engaging in peaceful expressions of opposition, are common in East Timor. East Timorese taken into military and police custody continue to be at risk of torture and ill-treatment, particularly during interrogation. Safeguards against the use of torture and other violations of detainee's rights, provided for under Indonesia's Code of Criminal Procedure, are frequently ignored by the military and the police. Detainees are routinely denied access to legal counsel and to their families, thereby increasing the risk of ill-treatment or torture.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/faxes/express/airmail letters in Bahasa Indonesia, English or your own language:
- urging the authorities to provide information concerning the whereabouts of Lucas da Costa and the reason for his arrest on 23 December 1997;
- calling on the authorities to guarantee the safety of Lucas da Costa and in particular to ensure that he is not subjected to torture or ill-treatment in custody;
- urging the authorities to ensure that he is given immediate access to independent legal counsel, members of his family and necessary medical treatment.

APPEALS TO:

Commander of the Armed Forces
General Feisal Tanjung
Panglima ABRI
Markas Besar ABRI
Jl. Medan merdeka Barat No 13
Jakarta Timur
Indonesia
Telegrams: **Markas Besar ABRI, Jakarta, Indonesia**
Salutation: **Dear General Feisal Tanjung**

Amnesty International, International Secretariat, 1 Easton Street, London WC1X 8DJ, United Kingdom

Tel: (44)(171) 413 5500 Fax: 956 1157 Telegrams: Amnesty London WC1 Telex: 28502 E-mail: uateam@amnesty.org

Chief of National Police
Lt. Gen. Dibyo Widodo
Kapolri
Markas Besar Kepolisian RI
Jalan Trunojoyo 13
Jakarta Selatan
Indonesia
Telegrams: **Kapolri, Jakarta, Indonesia**
Faxes: **+ 6221 720 7277**
Salutation: **Dear Lieutenant-General**

COPIES TO:

Secretary General
National Commission on Human Rights
Prof, Dr, Baharuddin Lopa
Sekretis Jenderal
Komisi Nasional Hak Asazi Manusia (Komnas HAM)
Jl Lautuharhary 4B
Jakarta Pusat, Indonesia

and to diplomatic representatives of Indonesia accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 12 February 1998.